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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/850/Add.4)]

50/221. Support account for peace-keeping operations

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The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 48/226 B of 5 April 1994, 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, 49/250 of 20 July 1995 and 50/221 A of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/489 of 8 July 1994, 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the support account for peace-keeping operations 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/ and the views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee, 3/

Reaffirming the need to continue to improve the administrative and financial management of peace-keeping operations,

Noting the recent notable decline in peace-keeping expenditure, and recognizing that this should, in due course, lead to a commensurate decline in backstopping requirements funded through the support account for peace-keeping operations,

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* Consequently, resolution 50/221 of 11 April 1996 becomes resolution 50/221 A.

1/ A/50/876, A/C.5/50/62 and A/C.5/50/65.

2/ A/50/897.

3/ See A/C.5/50/SR.64.

Recognizing the need for adequate support during the liquidation and termination phases of peace-keeping operations,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the support account for peace-keeping operations; 1/

2. Also takes note of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 2/

3. Approves, on a provisional basis and for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, the proposals of the Secretary-General with regard to post and non-post resource requirements as contained in his report of 29 February 1996 4/ and his proposals with regard to the proposed funding mechanism as amended by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 35 to 37 and annex II to its report, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in the context of his revised estimates for peace-keeping operations, which are subject to budgetary fluctuations as defined in General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, to present it with information on the impact that such fluctuations would have on the support account;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General, in this regard and on the assumption that the overall level of peace-keeping activities will remain at current levels, to submit revised resource estimates for the support account by 15 November 1996, with a view to reducing, to the extent possible, the post and non-post requirements for the backstopping of peace-keeping operations at Headquarters and, to a commensurate level, the number of officers on loan from Member States to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, to reflect the recent notable decline in peace-keeping expenditure;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit a performance report on the operation of the support account in the context of the annual consideration by the General Assembly of his proposals for the support account, including information on redeployments, if any, between units;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing his annual proposals for the support account, and taking into consideration the temporary nature of the current level of resources, to review and substantiate comprehensively the entire post and non-post requirements for the support account;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, in preparing his report on the support account for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, to submit a comprehensive proposal on the total requirement for human resources from all sources of funding for the backstopping of peace-keeping operations, including posts financed from the regular budget and trust funds, officers on loan from Member States and other voluntary contributions during the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, to enable the General Assembly to decide on the level of human resources required, including whether such posts should continue to be financed by means other than through assessed contributions;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General, in preparing his report on the use of the support account for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, to submit proposals that reflect as closely as possible the overall evolution of peace-keeping budgets and any additional relevant observations and recommendations regarding the lessons learned from the previous year of operation of the support account;

4/ A/50/876.

10. Decides, in particular in the context of its consideration of the above-mentioned proposals, to review the operation of the funding mechanism referred to in paragraph 3 above, taking into account past experience and the decline in the level of peace-keeping activities, on the understanding that, unless otherwise decided, the funding mechanism set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 of its resolution 49/250 will be restored as from 1 July 1997;

11. Reiterates the provisions contained in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its resolution 49/250 and paragraph 7 of resolution 50/221 A;

12. Reiterates its request to the Board of Auditors to keep under review the issue of the role and use of extrabudgetary resources, including the use of personnel loaned by departments and offices at Headquarters supporting peace-keeping operations, in particular the issue of the impact on the geographic distribution of staff in the Secretariat, and to report thereon to the General Assembly as appropriate;

13. Again recalls its resolution 48/226 C, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it, no later than 1 September 1996, a detailed report on various aspects related to the provision of personnel by Member States on loan to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations;

14. Decides to keep under review the proposed transfer of twenty-six posts from the support account to section 3 (Peace-keeping operations and special missions) and section 26B (Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts) of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, and to consider the issue further in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

15. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to present, in each report on the support account, information on the establishment and use of trust funds, including the scope of activities financed by them;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the transfer of posts from the Office of Human Resources Management to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations is fully implemented no later than 30 June 1996;

17. Decides to abolish the following posts:

(a) One General Service post in the Executive Office of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations;

(b) One General Service post in the Peace-keeping Financing Division of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts;

(c) Two General Service posts in the Mail Operations Unit of the Buildings Management Service of the Office of Conference and Support Services;

(d) Two General Service posts in the Electronic Services Division of the Office of Conference and Support Services;

(e) Twelve posts in departments other than the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, to be determined by the Secretary-General, of which at least two are in the Department of Administration and Management;

18. Decides also to establish the following posts:

(a) Two Professional posts, at the P-5 and P-3 levels, in the Audit and Management Consulting Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

(b) Six Professional posts at the P-4 level in the Mission Planning Service of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, subject to post classification review and full observance of normal recruitment procedures.

120th plenary meeting
7 June 1996